30. Reform of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Vikraman Velayudhan Unnithan (Member, Quilon taluk) said that the reform of the Legislative Council was pressed on the attention of the Government at the various previous sessions of the Assembly and he was prompted to press it again on account of the extreme importance of the subject. The Legislative Council Regulation, though it had undergone a slight amendment in respect of the maximum number of members in 1073, had remained, in material respects, unaltered for a period of 28 years. The Government also felt the necessity for some change and it raised the strength of the Council to its maximum. In point of education, Travancore was ahead of other Native States and the British Indian Provinces; but in recent years, the Legislative Councils of all those Provinces had undergone vast changes, while no change had been effected in the Travancore Council. The Member therefore thought that it was high time for the Government to bestow their serious consideration on the question. The Member made the following suggestions for reforming the Council:—

(1) To increase the number of members from 15 to 21.

(2) To grant the people the power of electing the non-official members.

(3) To grant the Council the power to discuss the annual budget.

(4) To grant the Council the right of interpellating the Government on important administrative questions and to pass resolutions on the same.

(5) To give the Council a non-official majority.

He said that the proposals he made were all in force in the British Indian Legislative Councils and were working satisfactorily. He prayed that the subject might receive the early attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

31. Legislation in Travancore.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said, at the outset, that he proposed to deal with the necessity for a Chitty Regulation in Travancore. He said that not less than 25 per cent of the number of suits filed in civil courts and of the number of documents registered by the Sub-Registrars, related to chitties. At present any man became the foreman of a chitty without any responsibility whatever. The trend of the High Court decisions was that the general principles of contract did not govern the chitty schemes. A law to regulate the chitty transactions was therefore very necessary.

Dewan's reply.— A Bill has already been framed and forwarded to the High Court for their opinion. As soon as it is received back, it will be taken up for consideration by Government. The Bill will also be published in the Government Gazette, for the information of the public, before it is formally introduced into the Legislative Council.

32. Effects of modern legislation on the public of Travancore.

Mr. V. Subrahmanyan Moothathu (Member, T. I. C., Tiruvalla) dwelt on the advantages of having the Co-operative Societies Department and hoped that agriculture in the State would considerably develop with the help of the department. The Member said that his subject was a wide one and that he proposed to point out the defects of certain provisions in some of the existing Regulations which caused much hardship to the people. Taking the Land Conservancy Regulation first, he said that Section 7 of the Regulation provided that intimation of previous occupation of Government lands should be given to the Tahsildar within one year, and the failure to do so was punishable under Sections 4 and 5. As the occupation might not have been intentional and as, in some cases, the present occupants might have no reasonable means of knowing that they were trespassers, it would not have been possible in many cases to give the required intimation to the Tahsildar.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly